



**US Army Corps
of Engineers**
St. Paul District

Information Paper

Navigation: Level of Service Reduction at the Three Twin Cities Locks and Dams, Minnesota



*Tow at Upper St. Anthony Falls Lock - Minneapolis,
Minnesota.*

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Background

Constrained funding and the Nation's fiscal deficit have led to reduced operations and maintenance funding within the Corps Inland Marine Transportation System (IMTS). When coupled with deteriorating infrastructure and increasing costs of operation, it became clear that the level of service the Corps has been providing at some locks and dams is not sustainable.

The three locks and dams in the Twin Cities: Upper St. Anthony Falls (USAF), Lower St. Anthony Falls (LSAF), and Lock and Dam 1 (LD1), are part of the Corps' IMTS consisting of 12,000 miles of inland waterways and more than 200 locks and dams.

The IMTS Board of Directors approved guidance in 2012 that established six levels of operational service for all IMTS locks. The criteria were based on the number of commercial and recreational lockages that passed through the locks on an annual basis.

Status

Based on the IMTS guidance, these three locks and dams transitioned from service level 1 to service level 2 in March 2013. During the 2014 navigation season these 3 locks were open 19 hours per day/7 days per week. As a part of this effort, hours of operation and staffing during the non-navigation season were also reduced.

The following summarizes the 2014 data for these locks and dams:

<u>Lock</u>	<u>Commercial Lockages</u>	<u>Recreational Lockages</u>
USAF	535	657
LSAF	1,028	552
LD1	621	799

The Water Resources Reform and Development Act 2014 required USAF lock to be closed to navigation by 10 June 2015.

Closing the USAF lock to navigation will likely eliminate commercial tonnage from being shipped through any of the Twin Cities locks. After the USAF lock is closed, the level of service at LSAF and LD1 will be reduced to one 10-hour shift per day for the remainder of 2015 navigation season. We will be open to navigation from 10am to 8pm each day. This meets IMTS guidance for service level 3, where we anticipate between 100 and 500 commercial lockages or over 1,000 recreational lockages.

The Corps met with navigation stakeholders in August 2014 and posted these changes in the Federal Register for public comment. We will review our lockage statistics annually and adjust our level of service at LSAF and LD1 to meet IMTS guidance as necessary.

The average annual tonnage from 2010 to 2014 was 755,437 tons.

Fiscal

The FY14 operational cost for these three locks and dams was \$2.22 million.